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**Application Fees for Non-Immigrant and Immigrant Visas to Increase
on January 1, 2008**

Effective January 1, 2008, the application fee for a U.S. non-immigrant visa will increase from \$100 to \$131. Under the updated USD/Euro Consular Exchange Rate also implemented on January 1, 2008, the new application fee will be €4.32. This increase allows the Department of State to recover the costs of security and other enhancements to the non-immigrant visa application process. The increase applies both to non-immigrant visas issued on machine-readable foils in passports and to border crossing cards issued to certain applicants in Mexico.

Applicants who paid the prior \$100/€4 application fee before January 1, 2008 will be exempt from the new fee only if they appear for visa interviews on or before January 31, 2008. Applicants who paid the prior \$100/€4 application fee before January 1, 2008 and appear for visa interviews **after** January 31, 2008 must pay the difference -- \$31/€2.32 -- before they will be interviewed. Applicants who pay the application fee on or after January 1, 2008 must pay the new amount of \$131/€4.32 regardless of when their visa interviews occur.

The Department of State is required by law to recover the cost of processing non-immigrant visas through the collection of the Machine-Readable Visa application fee. Because of new security-related costs, new information technology systems, and inflation, the \$100 Machine-Readable Visa fee was lower than the actual cost of processing non-immigrant visas. In fact, the \$100 fee was already lower than the cost of processing non-immigrant visas when the fee was reviewed as a part of the cost of service study in 2004. The Department of State has been absorbing the additional cost. We are now collecting 10 fingerprints from each applicant, and the cost charged by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to review those fingerprints no longer allows the Department of State to do this. The application fee has increased twice since September 11, 2001; the last time was in 2002.

Furthermore, effective January 1, 2008, the application fee for a U.S. immigrant visa will increase by \$20 from \$335 to \$355. The fee accurately reflects the cost of enhanced biometric security features which have been added to the immigrant visa system.

Those applicants who paid the prior \$335 application fee before January 1, 2008 will be processed without further payment even if they appear for an immigrant visa interview after January 1, 2008.

Most IV applicants pay their fees through the Department of State's National Visa Center (NVC) in the United States. Fee bills sent by NVC will reflect this change effective January 1, 2008. Applicants who make their payment after January 1, 2008 will be required to pay the increase even if their original fee bill sent prior to January 1, 2008 displays the fee of \$335.

This fee increase also affects Diversity Visa applicants, who pay this fee at the time of interview at an Embassy or Consulate.

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